

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

Civ. No. 1:19-cv-424

ZASTAVA PAP M70 7.62 CAL RIFLE,

Defendant-in-rem.

VERIFIED COMPLAINT FOR FORFEITURE *IN REM*

Plaintiff, United States of America, brings this complaint in accordance with Supplemental Rule G(2) of the Supplemental Rules for Certain Admiralty or Maritime Claims and Asset Forfeiture Actions, and alleges as follows:

NATURE OF THE ACTION

1. This is a civil action to forfeit and condemn to the use and benefit of the United States of America property involved in violations of the 18 U.S.C. § 922(g) that is subject to forfeiture pursuant to 18 U.S.C § 924(d)(1).

DEFENDANT *IN REM*

2. The defendant *in rem* consists of the following:

ZASTAVA PAP M70 7.62 CAL RIFLE,

(hereafter referred to as "Defendant Firearm").

3. The defendant was seized by the Drug Enforcement Administration on December 11, 2018, in the District of New Mexico.

4. The defendant is now, and during the pendency of this action will be, in the jurisdiction of this Court.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

5. The United States District Court for the District of New Mexico has subject matter jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1345, 1355(a) and 1356.

6. Venue for this civil forfeiture action is proper in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1355 and 1395, as acts or omissions giving rise to the forfeiture took place in this district and the property is found in this district. Upon the filing of this complaint, the defendant will be arrested by execution of a Warrant for Arrest *In Rem* in the District of New Mexico.

FACTS

7. On December 11, 2018, Taos Police Department assigned to the High Intensity Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Region III Task Force, Deportation Officer (DO) Salcido and Detective Martinez conducted surveillance at 29 Espinoza Road, Ranchos De Taos, New Mexico, single wide mobile home that displayed New Mexico registration plate 23974MHB, pursuant to a Federal Arrest Warrant for the offense of Illegal Reentry.

8. Detective Martinez observed Anna Maria Aguilar and Orlando Cruz-Cornejo exit the residence and enter a white Lincoln Mark II pick-up truck bearing New Mexico registration temporary tag 18T413496.

9. D.O. Salcido conducted a vehicle stop of the white Lincoln Mark II as it pulled in the Shell gas station located at 5280 NM-68.

10. D.O. Salcido wearing his raid vest with "Police" marking approached and contacted the passenger Orlando Cruz-Cornejo. D.O. Salcido then asked Cruz-Cornejo to exit the vehicle and conducted a pat down for search for weapons.

11. D.O. Salcido asked Orlando Cruz-Cornejo for an identification, Orlando Cruz-Cornejo presented a Mexican driver's license bearing the name Alejandro Gonzales to which Orlando Cruz-Cornejo was unable to provide a date of birth for, when asked by D.O. Salcido.

12. D.O. Salcido confirmed the identity of Orlando Cruz-Cornejo with a mobile fingerprint device.

13. D.O. Salcido advised Orlando Cruz-Cornejo of his Miranda rights. Orlando Cruz-Cornejo invoked his right to have an attorney present during questioning, no further questions were asked.

14. When D.O. Salcido asked Ms. Aguilar who the passenger of the vehicle was, she identified him as her boyfriend Alejandro Gonzales, and stated that she did not know him by any other names.

15. Ms. Aguilar consented to verbal and written consent to search her residence for any illegal items specifically firearms and narcotics.

16. During the search D.O. Salcido found an AK-47, Century Arms International Model N-PAPM70, chambered in 7.62 X 39, bearing serial number N-PAP012113, in plain sight in the middle bedroom.

17. D.O. Salcido found a clear plastic bag containing 5.1 ounces of cocaine inside of the kitchen cabinet.

18. All items were seized, Detective Martinez provided a copy of the controlled and itemized receipt to Ms. Aguilar.

19. Ms. Aguilar denied any possession or knowledge of the cocaine, but did say Orlando Cruz-Cornejo was holding the AK-47 for another person. Ms. Aguilar agreed to sign an abandonment form for the AK-47 at a later date.

20. Orlando Cruz-Cornejo has a criminal drug history.

FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF

21. The United States incorporates by reference the allegations in paragraphs 1 through 20 as though fully set forth.

22. Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 924(d)(1) subjects to forfeiture any firearm or ammunition involved in or used in any knowing violation of section 922(g), where such intent is demonstrated by clear and convincing evidence, shall be subject to seizure and forfeiture.”

23. Defendant firearms are subject to arrest and forfeiture to plaintiff under 18 U.S.C. § 924(d)(1) because the property was involved in or used in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 922(g).

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff seeks arrest of defendant firearm and forfeiture of same to Plaintiff, determination of the validity and priority of claims of the Claimants and any Unknown Claimants to the defendant, costs and expenses of seizure and of this proceeding, and other proper relief.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN C. ANDERSON
United States Attorney



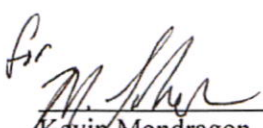
STEPHEN R. KOTZ
Assistant U.S. Attorney
P.O. Box 607
Albuquerque, NM 87103
(505) 346-7274

28 U.S.C. § 1746 DECLARATION

I am a Special Agent with the Drug Enforcement Administration who has read the contents of the Complaint for Forfeiture *In Rem* to which this Declaration is attached; and the statements contained in the complaint are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

I declare under penalty of perjury and the laws of the United States of America that this Declaration is true and correct, except as to matters stated on information and belief, and as to those matters I believe them to be true.

Dated: 5/7/19

for  *Deportation Officer*
Matthew D. Salcido
Kevin Mondragon, Special Agent
Drug Enforcement Administration

CIVIL COVER SHEET

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS

United States of America

(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff _____
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)

DEFENDANTS

ZASTAVA PAP M70 7.62 CAL RIFLE

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant _____
(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.

Attorneys (If Known)

II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- ☒ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff
- ☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant
- ☐ 3 Federal Question
(U.S. Government Not a Party)
- ☐ 4 Diversity
(Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)

- | | PTF | DEF | | PTF | DEF |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Citizen of This State | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| Citizen of Another State | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 |
| Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | Foreign Nation | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 |

CONTRACT	TORTS		FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES
<input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act <input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument <input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment <input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act <input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) <input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholders' Suits <input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract <input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 196 Franchise	PERSONAL INJURY <input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane <input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander <input type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers' Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury <input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice	PERSONAL INJURY <input type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 367 Health Care/Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability PERSONAL PROPERTY <input type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud <input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending <input type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage <input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 690 Other	<input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 <input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 PROPERTY RIGHTS <input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights <input type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent <input type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark SOCIAL SECURITY <input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ff) <input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923) <input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) <input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI <input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g))	<input type="checkbox"/> 375 False Claims Act <input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment <input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust <input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking <input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation <input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations <input type="checkbox"/> 480 Consumer Credit <input type="checkbox"/> 490 Cable/Sat TV <input type="checkbox"/> 850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange <input type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions <input type="checkbox"/> 891 Agricultural Acts <input type="checkbox"/> 893 Environmental Matters <input type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Information Act <input type="checkbox"/> 896 Arbitration <input type="checkbox"/> 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision <input type="checkbox"/> 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
REAL PROPERTY <input type="checkbox"/> 210 Land Condemnation <input type="checkbox"/> 220 Foreclosure <input type="checkbox"/> 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment <input type="checkbox"/> 240 Torts to Land <input type="checkbox"/> 245 Tort Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 290 All Other Real Property	CIVIL RIGHTS <input type="checkbox"/> 440 Other Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 441 Voting <input type="checkbox"/> 442 Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 443 Housing/Accommodations <input type="checkbox"/> 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other <input type="checkbox"/> 448 Education	PRISONER PETITIONS Habeas Corpus: <input type="checkbox"/> 463 Alien Detainee <input type="checkbox"/> 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence <input type="checkbox"/> 530 General <input type="checkbox"/> 535 Death Penalty Other: <input type="checkbox"/> 540 Mandamus & Other <input type="checkbox"/> 550 Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 555 Prison Condition <input type="checkbox"/> 560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of	LABOR <input type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act <input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Management Relations <input type="checkbox"/> 740 Railway Labor Act <input type="checkbox"/> 751 Family and Medical Leave Act <input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation <input type="checkbox"/> 791 Employee Retirement Income Security Act IMMIGRATION <input type="checkbox"/> 462 Naturalization Application <input type="checkbox"/> 465 Other Immigration Actions	FEDERAL TAX SUITS <input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) <input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	

IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- ☒ 1 Original Proceeding ☐ 2 Removed from State Court ☐ 3 Remanded from Appellate Court ☐ 4 Reinstated or Reopened ☐ 5 Transferred from Another District (specify) ☐ 6 Multidistrict Litigation

VI. CAUSE OF ACTION

Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity):

18 U.S.C. § 924(d)(1)

Brief description of cause:

VII. REQUESTED IN

☐ CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION

DEMAND \$

CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint:

COMPLAINT:

UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P.

JURY DEMAND: ☐ Yes ☐ No

VIII. RELATED CASE(S)

IF ANY

(See instructions):

JUDGE

DOCKET NUMBER

DATE

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

5/7/2019

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT #

AMOUNT

APPLYING IFP

JUDGE

MAG. JUDGE